BASIC SCHOOL COMPOSTING RECIPE

3 PARTS CARBON: brown, woody, dry materials such as fallen leaves, sawdust, straw, newspaper, or paper towels. Bulky materials, including branches should be chopped or shredded.

1 PART NITROGEN: green, wet materials, such as food scraps, grass clippings, plant material, and manures.

MOISTURE (just a little, like a damp sponge)

A LITTLE SOIL OR FINISHED COMPOST

AIR

A COMPOST BIN

A SHOVEL OR PITCH FORK

AND STUDENTS

• Mix a variety of materials in the compost bin by alternating a layer of "carbon" or dry, brown materials, with a layer of "nitrogen" or wet, green materials.
• Sprinkle a little water on each layer so that the materials are moist, but not soggy. Or, leave the lid off the compost bin if it is raining.
• Top it off with a thin layer of soil or already finished compost.
• Mix or turn the composting materials to allow air to flow through. The more the materials are turned the faster the compost will be finished.
• Turning the composting materials 1-2 times per week will make compost in about 6 months, depending on what materials are being composted and the temperature outside. All organic materials decompose, so even if the pile is not turned very often it will eventually make compost.

DO NOT COMPOST meat, bones, grease, or milk.